

5        A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR AN INSTANT MESSENGER HOME  
      AUTOMATION SYSTEM INTERFACE USING A HOME ROUTER

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10            A method for interfacing with a home automation system using a router.  
The router receives control signals from an instant messenger application via  
a communications network. The communications network can be the  
Internet. The router then transmits the control signal to at least one  
appliance to control the appliance in accordance with the control signal. A  
15        reply to the control signal can be received from the appliance and the reply can  
be transmitted to the instant messenger application regarding a status of the  
appliance. The control signals can be transmitted among the appliances in  
accordance with a standardized home automation interface. The router can be  
20        configured to interface with a plurality of appliances via a home automation  
system interface unit. The router can also be configured to log onto an instant  
messenger server and function as an instant messenger client to receive  
control signals from a user.